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cat·a·lyst  [Pronunciation Key](#) (kătl'ĭst)  
*n.*

1. *Chemistry.* A substance, usually used in small amounts relative to the reactants, that modifies and increases the rate of a reaction without being consumed in the process.
2. One that precipitates a process or event, especially without being involved in or changed by the consequences: “A free press... has remained... a vital catalyst to an informed and responsible electorate” (Robert O’Neal).

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[From *catalysis*.]

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Source: *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*

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### catalyst

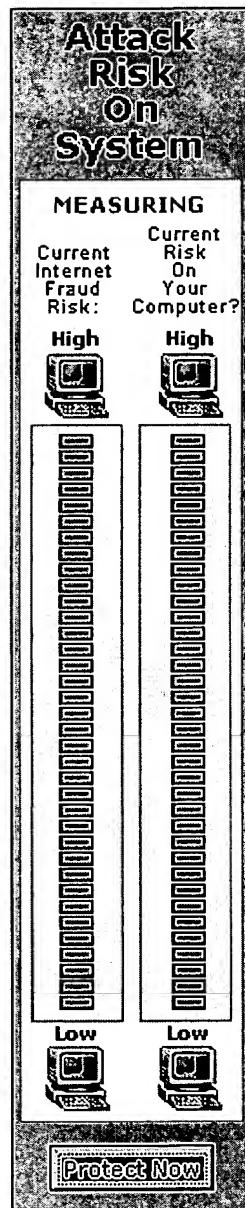
n 1: (chemistry) a substance that initiates or accelerates a chemical reaction without itself being affected [syn: *accelerator*] [ant: *anticatalyst*] 2: something that causes an important event to happen; "the invasion acted as a catalyst to unite the country"

Source: *WordNet* ® 1.6, © 1997 Princeton University

### catalyst

catalyst: in CancerWEB's On-line Medical Dictionary

Source: *On-line Medical Dictionary*, © 1997-98 Academic Medical Publishing & CancerWEB



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